

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

Spoil Spreading

(Acre)

Code 572

DEFINITION

Disposing of surplus excavated materials.

PURPOSES

To permit use of land occupied by spoil for agriculture and other purposes, to facilitate establishing and controlling vegetation along banks, to provide a travelway along banks for use and maintenance, to provide borrow for land grading, leveling, or smoothing, or to improve landscape quality.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to sites where spoil material is available from excavation of channels, drainage ditches, irrigation canals, or other construction sites and where it is desirable and economically feasible to achieve one or more purposes.

CRITERIA

Spoil shall be spread over a designated area according to an approved plan or as modified by a technician at the site where authorized in the contract or otherwise feasible. Provisions shall be made for the diversion or safe passage of surface water concentrating on the landside of the spoilbanks along channels, ditches, or canals. Location and placement of spoil should be such as to avoid unnecessary destruction of riparian vegetation.

The spoil shall be placed so as not to endanger the stability of the ditch bank and shall not exceed 3 ft. in height above the natural ground surface, except by special design. The finished surface shall slope away from the edge of the channel or berm as feasible.

For spoil spreading along channels, ditches, or canals, surfaces of spoil shall not be steeper than 4 horizontal to 1 vertical on the landside and 3 horizontal to 1 vertical on the channel side if a berm is established. If the spoil is spread to the edge of the channel, the channel side slope of the spoil shall be shaped to join the side slope of the ditch bank so that loose spoil will not roll or wash into the channel or ditch.

Spoil spreading for other construction sites shall be in accordance with the standard and specification of the applicable conservation practices and shall be shaped to a designed form that blends visually with the landscape. Where appropriate, consideration should be given to using spoil for direct or indirect human benefits such as blocking views, deflecting or redirecting wind or snow, and other uses that may be identified as desirable.

Vegetated cover: If needed, an adequate cover of grasses and legumes shall be established on the spoil to protect it against erosion by flood flows or rainfall and runoff. Vegetative establishment should be in accordance with technical guide specification 608, surface drainage – main or lateral.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

CONSIDERATIONS

Spoil spreading should be part of the treatment needed to protect soil, water, plant, animal and air resources. The management system must be planned to prevent excessive maintenance and operation problems.

Effects on water quantity and quality shall be considered. This practice is to dispose of surplus excavated materials in a manner that adds to future agricultural land uses or improved landscape quality. The disposal must occur in a manner that allows no adverse effects on components of the water budget. The distribution of snow and the location of its moisture affects may be changed from previous conditions by the practice.

Placement of spoil, by standard, must not lead to water quality deterioration and some spoil location may require disposal permits. Location of spoil relative to surface drainage is important because it may contain toxic substances. The established period may produce increased erosion and sediment yield to watercourses until the practice becomes more stable.

Special attention shall be given to maintaining and improving visual resources and habitat for wildlife where applicable. The landowner/user will be advised if wetlands will be affected and USDA-NRCS wetland policy will apply. All work planned shall be in compliance with General Manual Title 450-GM, Part 405, Subpart A, Compliance with Federal, State, and Local Laws and Regulations. If archaeological or historical properties are encountered, the USDA-

NRCS policy in General Manual Title 420-GM, Part 401 shall be followed.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for spoil spreading shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for properly applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

A maintenance program shall be established by the landowner/user to maintain the function of the practice. Items to consider are:

1. Spoil area is vegetated.
 - (a) Do not overgraze the areas.
 - (b) Fertilize to maintain a vigorous vegetative cover of spoil area. Caution should be used with fertilization to maintain water quality.
 - (c) Control undesirable vegetation on spoil area. Caution should be used to use only chemicals approved for their use on the label.

Promptly repair eroded areas.

3. Promptly remove any burrowing rodents that may cause damage in the spoil area.
4. Periodically inspect area for any new maintenance items and if any observed take immediate action to protect from further damage or deterioration.